

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HOUSE FAILS TO RESTORE "PROJECT IMPACT" FUNDING

WASHINGTON - The U.S. House of Representatives on Monday night defeated an amendment supported by U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) that would have restored \$25 million to Project Impact, a program that assists communities with disaster preparedness. Both the Town of Dryden and the Village of Waverly have benefited from the program.

"We have recently seen the positive results of Project Impact in Dryden," said Hinchey. "The plan the town developed with Project Impact's assistance was instrumental in obtaining funding from FEMA. But unfortunately this is yet another important program that the administration and the majority in the House are sacrificing so that the wealthy can have a tax cut."

Project Impact was created by the Clinton Administration to shift the way communities think about disasters from a reactive to a proactive approach. It is a public-private partnership that funds emergency management preparation activities and has been a relatively low-cost way to save lives and prevent damage in cases of natural disasters and other emergencies.

Both Dryden and Waverly have used their Project Impact designations to develop hazard mitigation plans. Earlier this month, Dryden was awarded \$307,800 to stabilize a 400-foot section of Virgil Creek's stream bank where erosion threatens several residences and County Highway 157. The town's grant application was largely based on its hazard mitigation plan.

President Bush eliminated funding for Project Impact in his budget request for fiscal year 2002. Hinchey supported an amendment offered by U.S. Representative Lois Capps (D-CA) that would have earmarked \$25 million for the program. The amendment was defeated by a 231-190 vote.